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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we have heard with our own ears and seen with our own eyes Your great power on our behalf. Lord, our ancestors told us about You, how You kept them from disgrace, drove out evil, delivered them from shackles, rescued them from trouble, protected them from hardships, and kept this Nation free. We praise You for using our lawmakers for Your glory. Accept our thanksgiving as we press toward the future, eager to serve Your purposes for our lives in this generation.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 this afternoon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

At 4:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Richard F. Griffin, Jr., to be general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board for a term of 4 years. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a cloture vote.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent the time until 4 p.m. be for debate only.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UPCOMING WORK PERIOD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I welcome back the President pro tempore. I hope he had a productive week in Vermont, and that all my colleagues enjoyed visiting with constituents at home.

This work period is going to be 4 weeks long. We have a great deal to accomplish during this 4-week period and it will go by quickly. We are attempting to work things out so we don't have to work during the holidays for a change. The last several years we have been stuck up to Thanksgiving and right through Christmas on a couple of occasions.

It is obvious Senators aren't making these Monday votes a priority. We have a lot of people not showing up. So everyone should understand, this vote tonight is a very important vote. I am disappointed some Senators aren't going to be here. But in the future the next Mondays we can be expecting a vote or series of votes. I think we have become very complacent and not worrying about the Monday night votes. We will have some votes that may be more meaningful, as this one is.

During this next work period, the only time we will have off will be November 11 for the celebration of Veterans Day. Therefore, if we are going to finish our work in this 4-week period, that means we are going to have to work on Mondays and Fridays. I hope we don't have to work weekends, but we have to get this work done.

(Mr. KAINÉ assumed the Chair.)

SENATOR-ELECT CORY BOOKER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this week we are going to say goodbye to our colleague who was appointed to represent

the State of New Jersey after the untimely death of Frank Lautenberg, but we also will welcome a new Member to the Senate, Senator-elect from the State of New Jersey CORY BOOKER. What a remarkable young man he is.

He was a student at Stanford, and to get into Stanford you have to be a very good student. I am impressed with his academic skills, but he was also a tight end for the football team at Stanford, No. 5 in the Nation. They have a great football program. Everyone will meet CORY BOOKER and find that he is a very big man physically.

After graduating with a degree from Stanford in political science, he got his master's degree in sociology from Stanford. He then became a Rhodes Scholar and studied U.S. history at Oxford. He received his law degree from Yale. What an outstanding record: Stanford, a couple of degrees; Rhodes Scholar, Oxford; Yale Law School. That is quite impressive. Then he served on the Newark City Council and was mayor for 2 years, a job that has been noticed all over the country, recognizing the great work he has done.

THE WORK AHEAD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during this 4-week period we are going to do a number of things, not necessarily in this order, but we are going to consider ENDA, known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would provide basic protections against workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. We haven't taken this up for a number of years. We tried and failed in the House of Representatives before, but we are going to take it up here again.

We are going to consider a bipartisan bill to make compounding drugs safer. As we will recall, there was a terrible tragedy in the Northeast, where a number of people died as a result of not compounding these products properly. This bipartisan legislation will allow

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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